(a) whether it is a fact that after having announced the pension plan for senior citizens on the 17th June, 2003 in all prominent national dailies, Government hastily retreated and withdrew it the very next day;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the scheme has been abandoned finally; and

(d) if not, by when the same is likely to be announced and formally put in place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana, a pension plan for senior citizens, has been launched all over India on 14th July, 2003.

Subsidy on Kerosene and LPG

†203. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a difference of opinion between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Ministry of Finance on the issue of the period of granting subsidy on kerosene and LPG;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent it has been resolved or by when it is likely to be resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The scheme for subsidy on Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene has already been notified on 28th January, 2003 by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been advised to phase out the scheme over a period of three years from 2002-03.

Medium term fiscal revamp policy for States

†204. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

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†*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.*